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Committees  
Economic Development, Small  
Business and Regulatory Reform VC  
Families and Human Services VC  
Government Operations  
Health Policy

# The Jacobs Report

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, March 21, 2003**

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*For the week ending March 22, 2003*

## **GOOD NEWS: STATE REVENUES UP IN FEBRUARY**

Michigan finally received good financial news this week, as the Senate Fiscal Agency announced that the state collected more money in February than it had a year before. The state raised more than \$1.5 billion during the month, 4.4 percent more than February 2002. It was the first month in the 2002-03 fiscal year during which Michigan out-performed 2001-02. "While not a panacea, this is certainly good news," said state Senator Gilda Jacobs. "Revenues for the entire fiscal year are still down, but this is a nice sign of improvement." So far, the fiscal year's receipts have totaled \$6.57 billion, down by .4 percent from the same time in the previous year.

## **PARTISAN SENATE PASSES JCAR EXTENSION**

Senate Republicans voted as a block to approve legislation that would provide the Legislature with a larger window of time to review and act on proposed administrative rules. SB 255 would lengthen the time the Legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) has to study a proposed rule change from 21 to 90 days. If JCAR finds something objectionable in the rule, the Legislature has an additional 90 days under SB 255 to pass a bill killing the rule, amending the law that the rule effects or killing the law. Currently, the Legislature has 21 days to pass a bill. Ultimately, SB 255 was approved on a straight party-line vote, 22-15. The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

"If the existing 21-day window to object to rules was good enough for a Republican governor, it ought to be good enough for a Democratic governor," Senator Jacobs said. "Legislative rules need to remain constant and shouldn't be changed each time an office changes parties. Our delicate system of checks and balances shouldn't be subject to partisan tinkering."

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### **IRWIN CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE**

Following Senator Jacobs' supportive floor statement, Management and Budget Director Mitch Irwin was approved unanimously by the Senate on Wednesday. "Mr. Irwin served with distinction as a member of this chamber for nearly a dozen years," said Senator Jacobs. "Governor Granholm has certainly made another excellent choice in selecting him to again serve the people of Michigan."

### **SENATE OKS HAMMERSTROM/JACOBS PRESCRIPTION BILL**

Senate Bill 6 won unanimous approval in the Senate Tuesday. Under SB 6, pharmacists would have to list on a prescription bill the cost of the drug if a person was paying for the prescription without insurance. Bill co-sponsor Sen. Jacobs said that the Legislation is designed to help consumers understand the real cost of prescription drugs.

### **HOLOCAUST CLAIMS FILING DEADLINE EXTENDED**

The International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) announced that it has extended the deadline for filing Holocaust-era claims to September 30, 2003. The original deadline, March 30, 2003, was changed to allow the ICHEIC time to publish additional names of policyholders on its website ([www.icheic.org](http://www.icheic.org)) and give the public more time to view the lists.

Consumers may obtain claim forms directly from the Commission by calling (800) 957-3203 or visiting the ICHEIC website. Senator Jacobs urges consumers to file claims as soon as possible if they feel their family may have an outstanding policy.

The ICHEIC was established in 1998 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, in cooperation with several European insurance companies, regulators, and representatives of several Jewish organizations, and the state of Israel. The Commission was charged with establishing a just process that will expeditiously address the issue of unpaid insurance policies issued to victims of the Holocaust.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

**Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.**

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